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AUTHOR Breindel, Matthew D.  
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## ABSTRACT

A study was undertaken at California's College of the Desert to determine the persistence rates of new students who entered the college in fall 1991 and fall 1992. Course enrollment was tracked for these students through fall 1996, with outcomes examined by student gender, ethnicity, and age; student enrollment in credit or non-credit courses; student enrollment in 12 or more units, from 6 to 11.99 units, or 5.99 or fewer units. Highlighted findings include the following: (1) credit students persisted at a significantly higher rate than non-credit students, with 42% reenrolling the subsequent fall semester and 25% reenrolling the second subsequent fall semester; (2) for noncredit students, only 12% reenrolled the subsequent fall and 7% the second subsequent fall; (3) the number of units carried, as opposed to gender, age, or ethnicity, was the principal predictor of credit student persistence; (4) 67% of the new credit students who enrolled in 12 units or more persisted to the subsequent fall semester, compared to 46% of those carrying 6 to 11.9 units and 27% of those carrying 5.9 or fewer units; and (5) the highest persistence rate of all groups was that for Hispanic students carrying 12 or more units, with 73% persisting to the subsequent fall semester and 42% re-enrolled the second fall. Detailed data tables are included. (HAA)

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# Persistence of New Students

who entered COD  
Fall 1991 and Fall 1992



## COLLEGE OF THE DESERT

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## Foreword

What percentage of new students persist from semester to semester? Do different cohorts of new students persist at different rates? What factor is the principle predictor of student persistence?

The following report tracks the persistence of new students who entered Fall 1991 and Fall 1992. Data is taken from the Desert Community College District's MIS data tapes, which are submitted to the Chancellor's Office at the finish of each semester. A cohort of Fall 1991 or Fall 1992 new students is separated out and then compared with the MIS enrollment tapes of subsequent semesters: what percentage of the original cohort are enrolled during the subsequent semester? Students who drop out a semester and then return are included in the persistence count. Palm Desert and Copper Mountain students are not tabulated separately, since they are not separate in the MIS tapes.

The following cohorts of new students are followed through subsequent fall semesters:

new students male	6-11.99 units male
new students female	6-11.99 units female
new students white	6-11.99 units white
new students hispanic	6-11.99 units hispanic
new students other ethnicity	6-11.99 units other ethnicity
all credit male	0-5.99 units male
all credit female	0-5.99 units female
all credit white	0-5.99 units white
all credit hispanic	0-5.99 units hispanic
all credit other ethnicity	0-5.99 units other ethnicity
12 units or more male	all non-credit male
12 units or more female	all non-credit female
12 units or more white	all non-credit white
12 units or more hispanic	all non-credit hispanic
12 units or more other ethnicity	all non-credit other ethnicity

Credit students persist at a significantly higher rate than non-credit students. Of 100 new credit students, approximately 42 will reenroll the following fall, and approximately 25 will enroll for a class during the second subsequent fall. Non-credit students persist at a significantly lower rate: of 100 entering new students approximately 12 will be enrolled the subsequent fall and only 7 the second subsequent fall.

New credit students with a larger load persist at a higher rate: of 100 new students carrying a full load, approximately 67 will persist to the subsequent fall, and by the second fall semester 38 students will reenroll. When new credit students carry 6-11.9 units, 46 reenroll the subsequent fall. And when new credit students carry 0-5.9 units, only 27 reenroll the subsequent fall. Load carried --- and not gender, age or ethnicity --- is the principle predictor

of student persistence: the higher the load of new credit students, the higher the persistence rate.

The highest persistence rate of all the cohorts was that of Hispanic students who carried a full load: of 100 new Hispanic students 73 persisted to the subsequent fall, and 42 reenrolled the second fall. However, all categories of full load students persisted at almost equally high rates.

This report was produced using SPSS statistical software and then formatted as Excel spreadsheets. Questions concerning this report should be addressed to the Research Office, extension 257.



Matthew Breindel  
Research Office

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**FALL 1991**

**CHARACTERISTICS: NEW  
STUDENTS**

- All Credit Students 12 Units or more
- All Credit Students 6-11.9 Units
- All Credit Students under 6 Units
- All Credit Students
- All Non-Credit Students
- All New Students

# CHARACTERISTICS

## NEW STUDENTS ONLY, FALL 1991

### Percentage of Cohort within Category

	12 or more Units		6-11.9 Units		05-5.99 Units		Credit Total		0 Units	
Total	344	10%	547	15%	773	21%	1664	46%	1934	54%
Male	173	8%	242	11%	401	18%	816	36%	1426	64%
Female	171	13%	305	22%	372	27%	848	63%	508	37%
White	188	11%	299	17%	444	26%	931	54%	797	46%
Hispanic	101	9%	173	16%	174	16%	448	42%	630	58%
Other	33	7%	47	10%	78	17%	158	33%	314	67%
Unknown	22	7%	28	9%	77	24%	127	40%	193	60%
<18 yrs	40	18%	54	24%	42	19%	136	60%	91	40%
18-21 yrs	251	12%	332	16%	272	13%	855	41%	1243	59%
22-24 yrs	18	5%	48	14%	95	27%	161	45%	194	55%
25-29 yrs	14	4%	36	11%	110	33%	160	49%	169	51%
30-39 yrs	13	4%	46	14%	131	39%	190	57%	145	43%
40-49 yrs	4	3%	15	12%	57	46%	76	61%	49	39%
50 yrs +	2	2%	10	12%	50	60%	62	74%	22	26%
60 yrs +	2	4%	6	13%	16	36%	24	53%	21	47%

### Percentage of Category within Cohort

	12 or more Units		6-11.9 Units		05-5.99 Units		Credit Total		0 Units	
Total	344	100%	547	100%	773	100%	1664	100%	1934	100%
Male	173	50%	242	44%	401	52%	816	49%	1426	74%
Female	171	50%	305	56%	372	48%	848	51%	508	26%
White	188	55%	299	55%	444	57%	931	56%	797	41%
Hispanic	101	29%	173	32%	174	23%	448	27%	630	33%
Other	33	10%	47	9%	78	10%	158	9%	314	16%
Unknown	22	6%	28	5%	77	10%	127	8%	193	10%
<18 yrs	40	12%	54	10%	42	5%	136	8%	91	5%
18-21 yrs	251	73%	332	61%	272	35%	855	51%	1243	64%
22-24 yrs	18	5%	48	9%	95	12%	161	10%	194	10%
25-29 yrs	14	4%	36	7%	110	14%	160	10%	169	9%
30-39 yrs	13	4%	46	8%	131	17%	190	11%	145	7%
40-49 yrs	4	1%	15	3%	57	7%	76	5%	49	3%
50 yrs +	2	1%	10	2%	50	6%	62	4%	22	1%
50 yrs +	2	1%	6	1%	16	2%	24	1%	21	1%

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**FALL 1991**

**PERSISTENCE: NEW STUDENTS**

- All Credit Students
- All Credit Students 12 Units or more
- All Credit Students 6-11.9 Units
- All Credit Students under 6 Units
- All Non-Credit Students
- All New Students



# PERSISTENCE

## NEW STUDENTS ONLY, FALL 1991

### All Credit Students, New

	Fall 91		Fall 92		Fall 93		Fall 94		Fall 95	
Credit Only	1664	100%	672	40%	358	22%	253	15%	175	11%
Male	816	100%	287	35%	147	18%	93	11%	68	8%
Female	848	100%	385	45%	211	25%	51	6%	37	4%
White	931	100%	384	41%	192	21%	132	14%	82	9%
Hispanic	448	100%	200	45%	115	26%	85	19%	65	15%
Other	158	100%	52	33%	34	22%	22	14%	17	11%

### All Credit Students 12+ Units, New

	Fall 91		Fall 92		Fall 93		Fall 94		Fall 95	
12 units +	344	100%	236	69%	123	36%	72	21%	45	13%
Male	173	100%	118	68%	57	33%	30	17%	20	12%
Female	171	100%	118	69%	66	39%	42	25%	25	15%
White	188	100%	132	70%	64	34%	36	19%	18	10%
Hispanic	101	100%	71	70%	44	44%	27	27%	18	18%
Other	33	100%	21	64%	9	27%	5	15%	6	18%

### All Credit Students 6-11.99 Units, New

	Fall 91		Fall 92		Fall 93		Fall 94		Fall 95	
6-11.99 units	547	100%	247	45%	131	24%	107	20%	67	12%
Male	242	100%	96	40%	54	22%	40	17%	22	9%
Female	305	100%	151	50%	77	25%	67	22%	45	15%
White	299	100%	136	45%	65	22%	59	20%	32	11%
Hispanic	173	100%	84	49%	46	27%	35	20%	25	14%
Other	47	100%	17	36%	14	30%	7	15%	6	13%

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### All Credit Students <6 Units, New

	Fall 91		Fall 92		Fall 93		Fall 94		Fall 95	
01-5.99 Units	773	100%	189	24%	104	13%	74	10%	63	8%
Male	401	100%	73	18%	36	9%	23	6%	26	6%
Female	372	100%	116	31%	68	18%	51	14%	37	10%
White	444	100%	116	26%	63	14%	37	8%	32	7%
Hispanic	174	100%	45	26%	25	14%	23	13%	22	13%
Other	78	100%	14	18%	11	14%	10	13%	5	6%

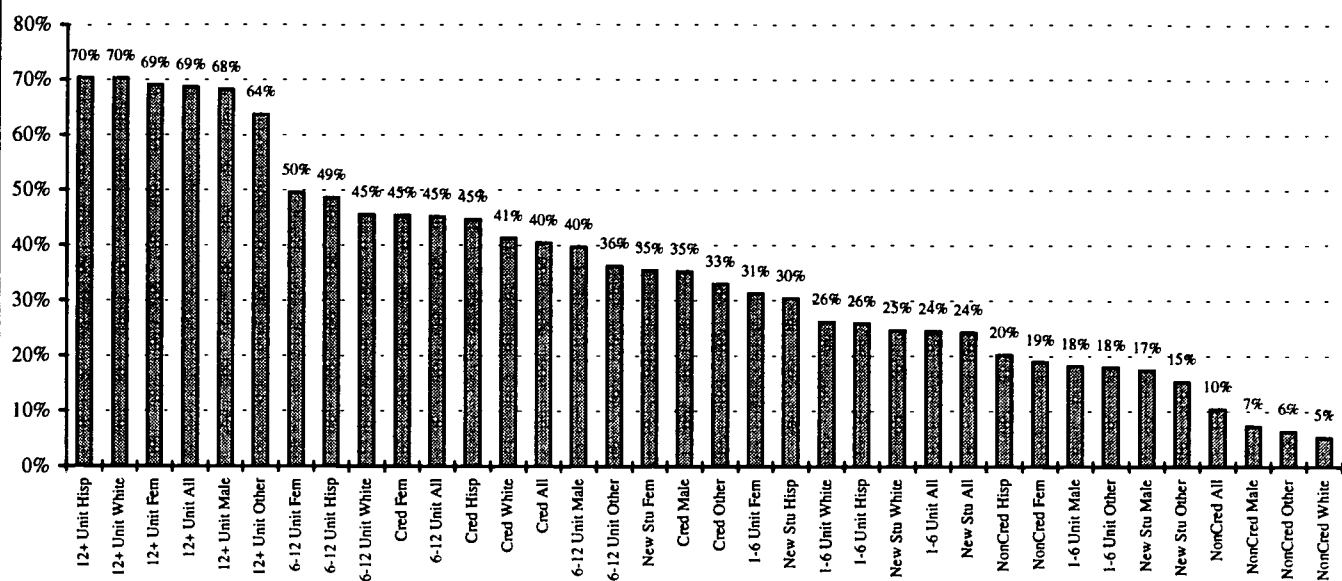
### All Non-Credit Students, New

	Fall 91		Fall 92		Fall 93		Fall 94		Fall 95	
0 units	1934	100%	200	10%	109	6%	84	4%	67	3%
Male	1426	100%	104	7%	59	4%	44	3%	44	3%
Female	508	100%	96	19%	50	10%	40	8%	23	5%
White	797	100%	42	5%	20	3%	12	2%	17	2%
Hispanic	630	100%	127	20%	69	11%	56	9%	41	7%
Other	314	100%	20	6%	11	4%	10	3%	7	2%

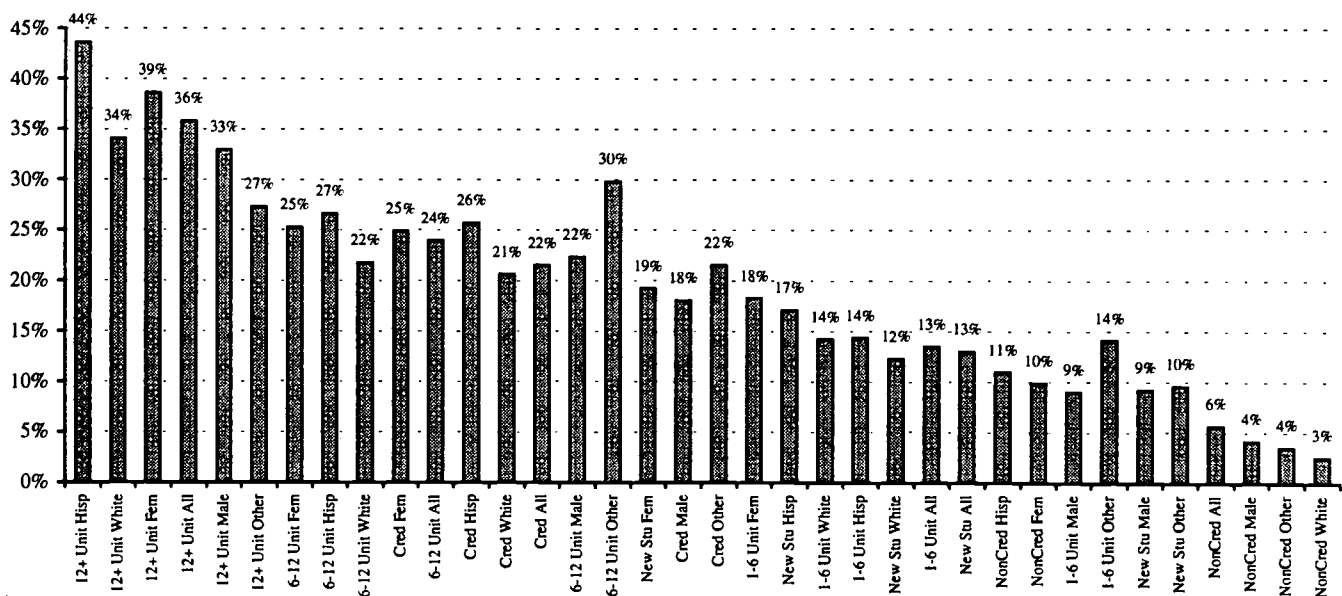
### All Students, New

	Fall 91		Fall 92		Fall 93		Fall 94		Fall 95	
All	3600	100%	872	24%	467	13%	337	9%	242	7%
Male	2243	100%	391	17%	206	9%	137	6%	112	5%
Female	1357	100%	481	35%	261	19%	200	15%	130	10%
White	1730	100%	426	25%	212	12%	144	8%	99	6%
Hispanic	1078	100%	327	30%	184	17%	141	13%	106	10%
Other	472	100%	72	15%	45	10%	32	7%	24	5%

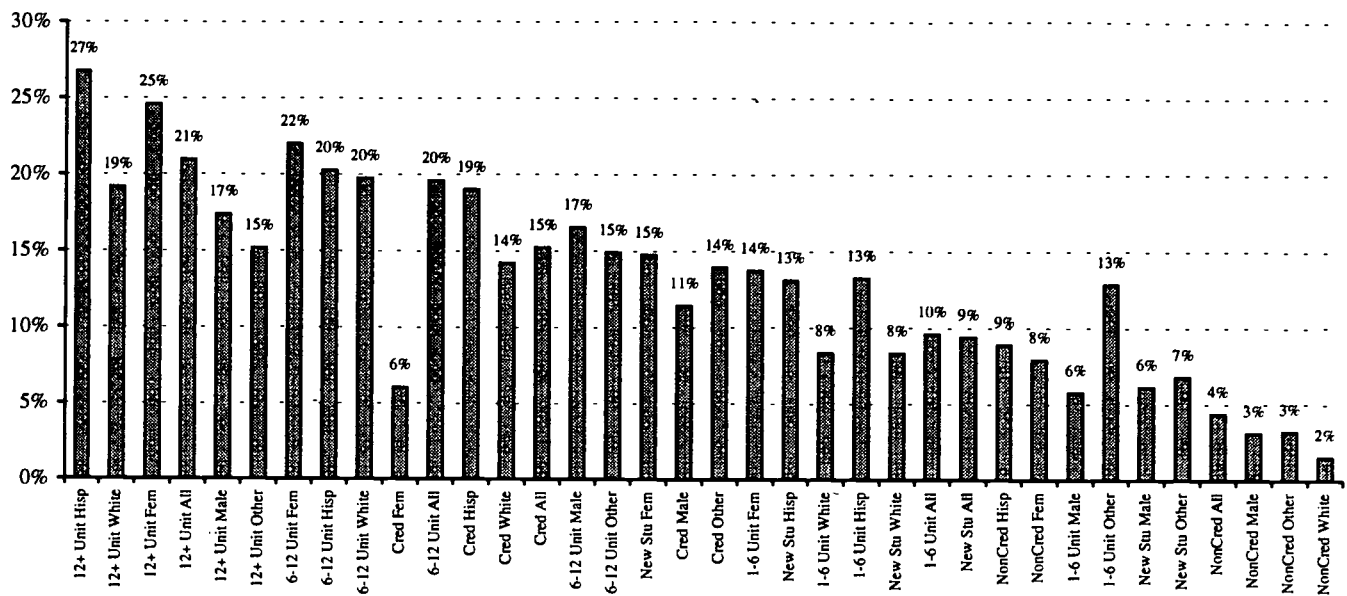
### New Students entering Fall 1991 Persistence after One Year (Fall 1992)



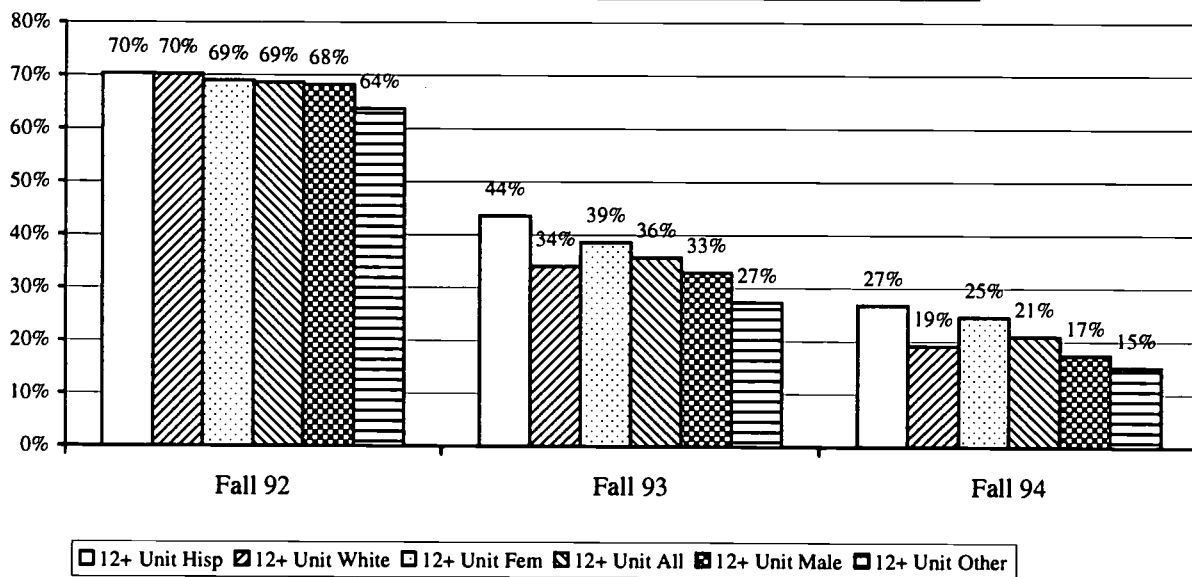
### New Students entering Fall 1991 Persistence after Two Years (Fall 1993)

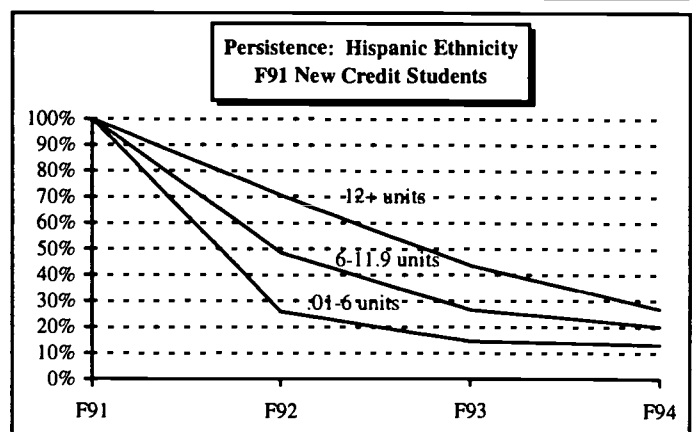
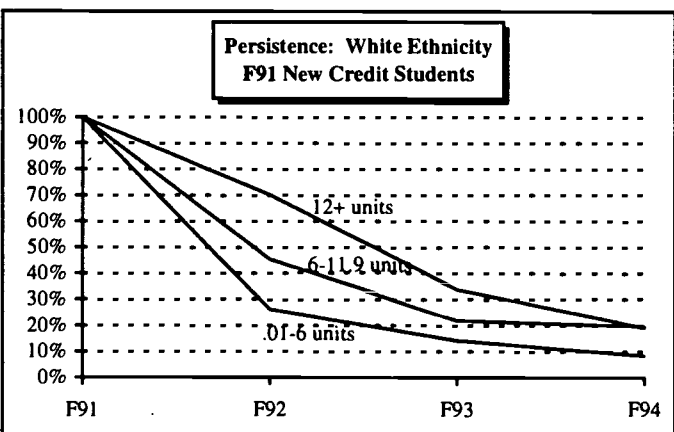
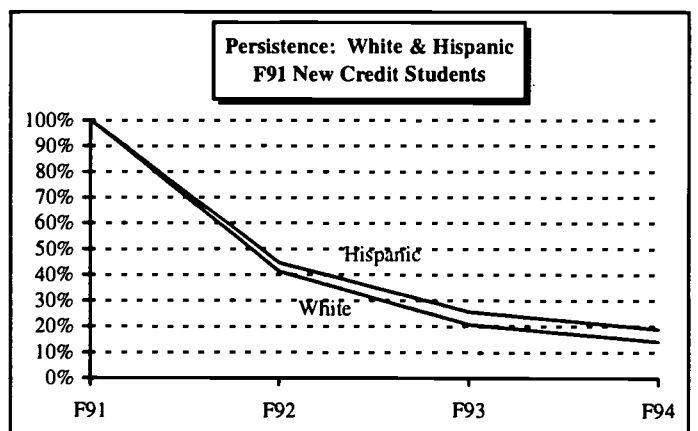
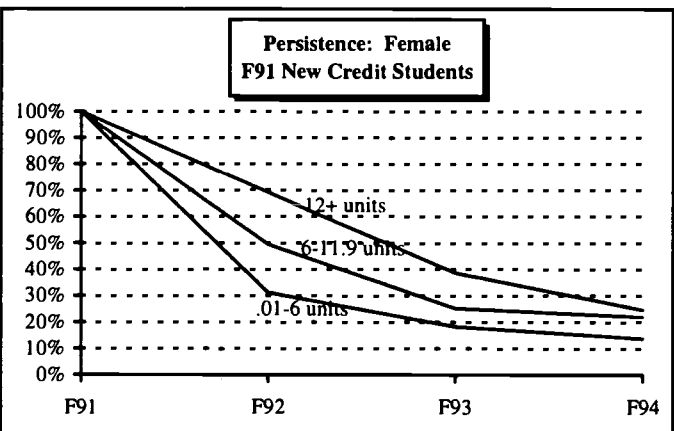
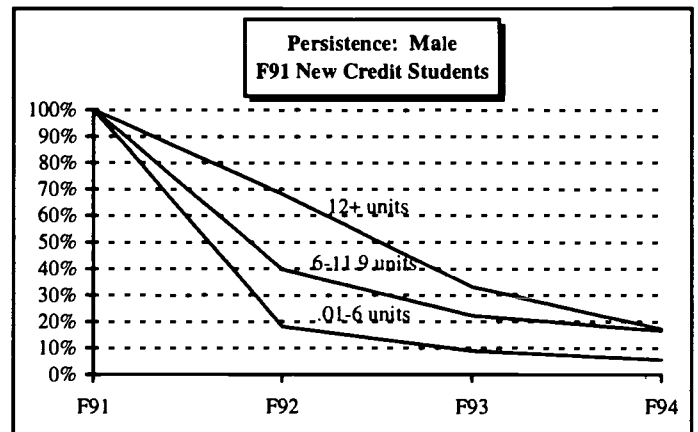
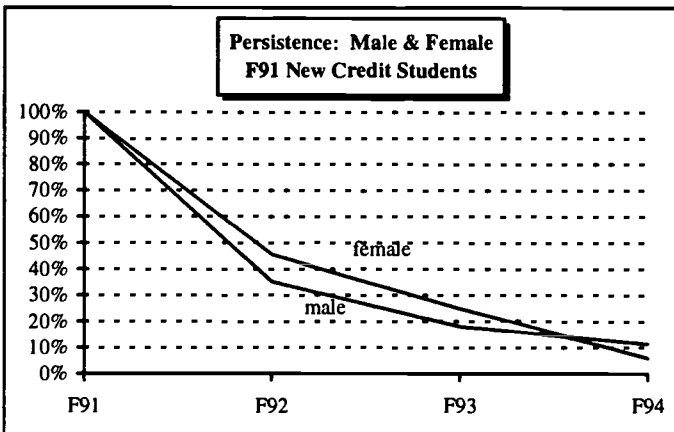
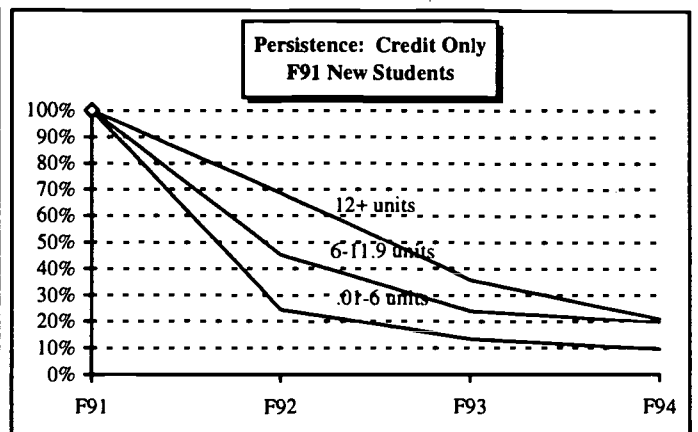
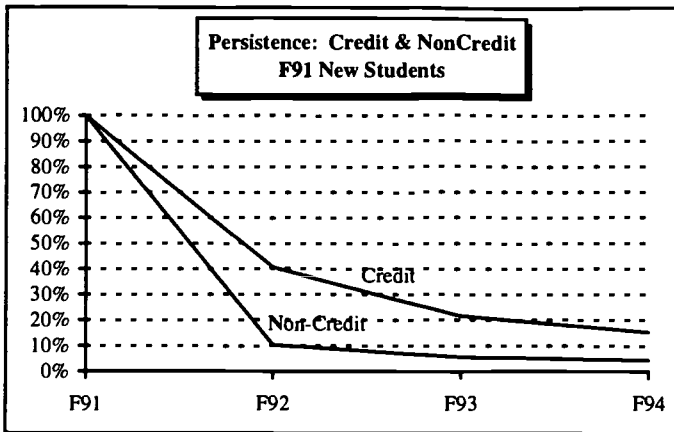


**New Students entering Fall 1991  
Persistence after Three Years (Fall 1994)**



**New Full-Load Students entering Fall 1991  
Persistence Fall 92 - Fall 93 - Fall 94**





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# **FALL 1992**

## **CHARACTERISTICS: NEW STUDENTS**

- All Credit Students 12 Units or more
- All Credit Students 6-11.9 Units
- All Credit Students under 6 Units
- All Credit Students
- All Non-Credit Students
- All New Students

# CHARACTERISTICS

## NEW STUDENTS ONLY, FALL 1992

### Percentage of Cohort within Category

	12 Units		6-11.9 Units		05-5.99 Units		Credit Total		0 Units		Total	
Total	404	15%	503	19%	547	20%	1454	54%	1228	46%	2682	100%
Male	178	12%	258	17%	285	19%	721	48%	766	52%	1487	100%
Female	226	19%	245	21%	262	22%	733	61%	462	39%	1195	100%
White	216	18%	247	20%	295	24%	758	63%	452	37%	1210	100%
Hispanic	123	13%	179	19%	138	15%	440	47%	502	53%	942	100%
Other	40	13%	50	16%	62	20%	152	50%	154	50%	306	100%
Unknown	25	11%	27	12%	52	23%	104	46%	120	54%	224	100%
<18 yrs	60	23%	76	29%	55	21%	191	73%	69	27%	260	100%
18-21 yrs	282	19%	305	20%	233	16%	820	55%	681	45%	1501	100%
22-24 yrs	24	9%	37	14%	66	25%	127	48%	138	52%	265	100%
25-29 yrs	7	3%	29	13%	44	20%	80	36%	140	64%	220	100%
30-39 yrs	17	7%	32	12%	78	30%	127	49%	131	51%	258	100%
40-49 yrs	6	7%	15	19%	25	31%	46	57%	35	43%	81	100%
50 yrs +	6	9%	6	9%	38	58%	50	76%	16	24%	66	100%
60 yrs +	2	6%	3	10%	8	26%	13	42%	18	58%	31	100%

### Percentage of Category within Cohort

	12 Units		6-11.9 Units		05-5.99 Units		Credit Total		0 Units		Total	
Total	404	100%	503	100%	547	100%	1454	100%	1228	100%	2682	100%
Male	178	44%	258	51%	285	52%	721	50%	766	62%	1487	55%
Female	226	56%	245	49%	262	48%	733	50%	462	38%	1195	45%
White	216	53%	247	49%	295	54%	758	52%	452	37%	1210	45%
Hispanic	123	30%	179	36%	138	25%	440	30%	502	41%	942	35%
Other	40	10%	50	10%	62	11%	152	10%	154	13%	306	11%
Unknown	25	6%	27	5%	52	10%	104	7%	120	10%	224	8%
<18 yrs	60	15%	76	15%	55	10%	191	13%	69	6%	260	10%
18-21 yrs	282	70%	305	61%	233	43%	820	56%	681	55%	1501	56%
22-24 yrs	24	6%	37	7%	66	12%	127	9%	138	11%	265	10%
25-29 yrs	7	2%	29	6%	44	8%	80	6%	140	11%	220	8%
30-39 yrs	17	4%	32	6%	78	14%	127	9%	131	11%	258	10%
40-49 yrs	6	1%	15	3%	25	5%	46	3%	35	3%	81	3%
50 yrs +	6	1%	6	1%	38	7%	50	3%	16	1%	66	2%
50 yrs +	2	0%	3	1%	8	1%	13	1%	18	1%	31	1%

**FALL 1992**

**PERSISTENCE: NEW STUDENTS**

- All Credit Students
- All Credit Students 12 Units or more
- All Credit Students 6-11.9 Units
- All Credit Students under 6 Units
- All Non-Credit Students
- All New Students



# PERSISTENCE NEW STUDENTS ONLY, FALL 1992

## All Credit Students, New

	Fall 92		Fall 93		Fall 94		Fall 95		Fall 96	
Credit Only	1454	100%	661	45%	393	27%	239	16%	170	12%
Male	721	100%	298	41%	170	24%	94	13%	76	11%
Female	733	100%	363	50%	223	30%	145	20%	94	13%
White	758	100%	326	43%	190	25%	120	16%	64	8%
Hispanic	440	100%	242	55%	148	34%	90	20%	77	18%
Other	152	100%	59	39%	33	22%	19	13%	18	12%

## All Credit Students 12+ Units, New

	Fall 92		Fall 93		Fall 94		Fall 95		Fall 96	
12 units +	404	100%	263	65%	159	39%	93	23%	55	14%
Male	178	100%	114	64%	67	38%	34	19%	17	10%
Female	226	100%	149	66%	92	41%	59	26%	38	17%
White	216	100%	131	61%	85	39%	52	24%	22	10%
Hispanic	123	100%	92	75%	51	41%	30	24%	25	20%
Other	40	100%	28	70%	14	35%	9	23%	7	18%

## All Credit Students 6-11.99 Units, New

	Fall 92		Fall 93		Fall 94		Fall 95		Fall 96	
6-11.99 units	503	100%	243	48%	133	26%	91	18%	72	14%
Male	258	100%	114	44%	60	23%	38	15%	34	13%
Female	245	100%	129	53%	73	30%	53	22%	38	16%
White	247	100%	118	48%	54	22%	35	14%	22	9%
Hispanic	179	100%	96	54%	62	35%	46	26%	39	22%
Other	50	100%	20	40%	11	22%	6	12%	5	10%

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### All Credit Students <6 Units, New

	Fall 92		Fall 93		Fall 94		Fall 95		Fall 96	
01-599 Units	547	100%	155	28%	101	18%	55	10%	43	8%
Male	285	100%	70	25%	43	15%	22	8%	25	9%
Female	262	100%	85	32%	58	22%	33	13%	18	7%
White	295	100%	77	26%	51	17%	33	11%	20	7%
Hispanic	138	100%	54	39%	35	25%	14	10%	13	9%
Other	62	100%	11	18%	8	13%	4	6%	6	10%

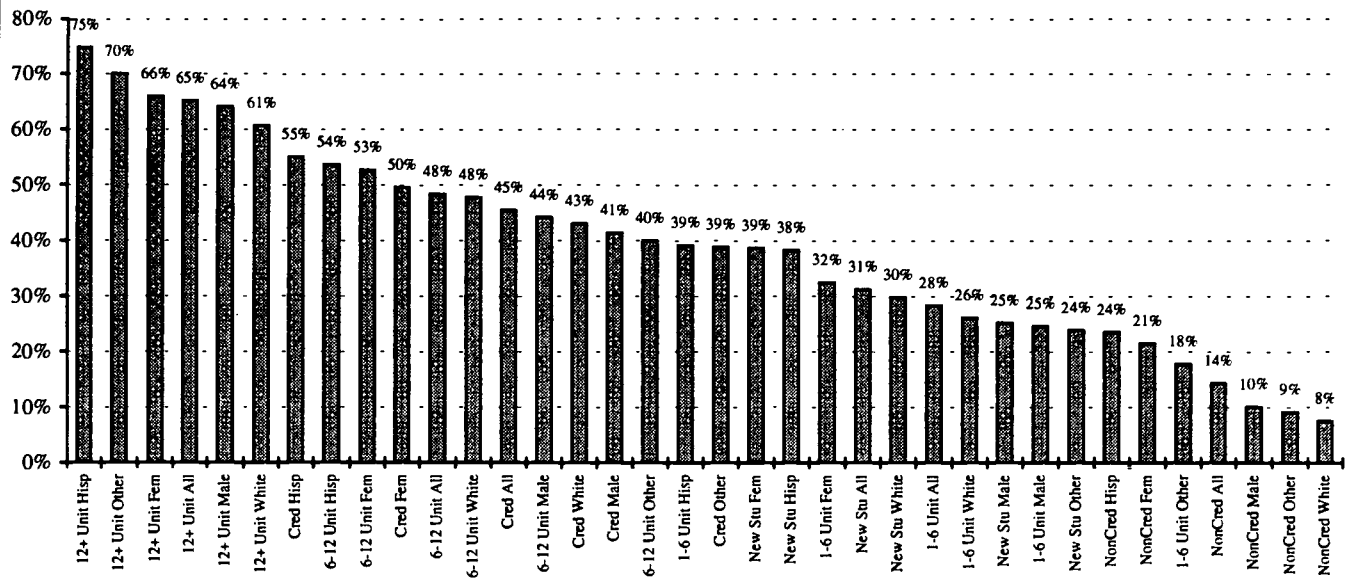
### All Non-Credit Students, New

	Fall 92		Fall 93		Fall 94		Fall 95		Fall 96	
0 units	1228	100%	176	14%	104	8%	62	5%	58	5%
Male	766	100%	77	10%	48	6%	25	3%	18	2%
Female	462	100%	99	21%	56	12%	37	8%	40	9%
White	452	100%	34	8%	26	6%	12	3%	14	3%
Hispanic	502	100%	118	24%	66	13%	43	9%	39	8%
Other	154	100%	14	9%	5	3%	3	2%	3	2%

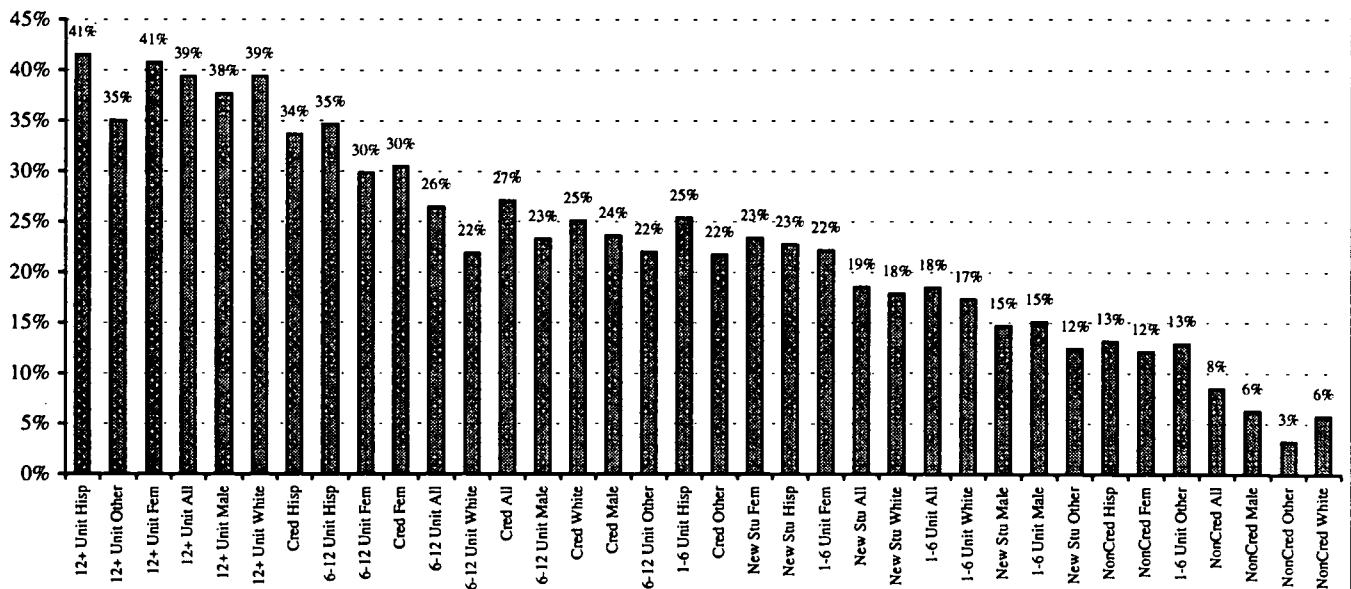
### All Students, New

	Fall 92		Fall 93		Fall 94		Fall 95		Fall 96	
All	2682	100%	837	31%	497	19%	301	11%	228	9%
Male	1487	100%	375	25%	218	15%	119	8%	94	6%
Female	1195	100%	462	39%	279	23%	182	15%	134	11%
White	1210	100%	360	30%	216	18%	132	11%	78	6%
Hispanic	942	100%	360	38%	214	23%	133	14%	116	12%
Other	306	100%	73	24%	38	12%	22	7%	21	7%

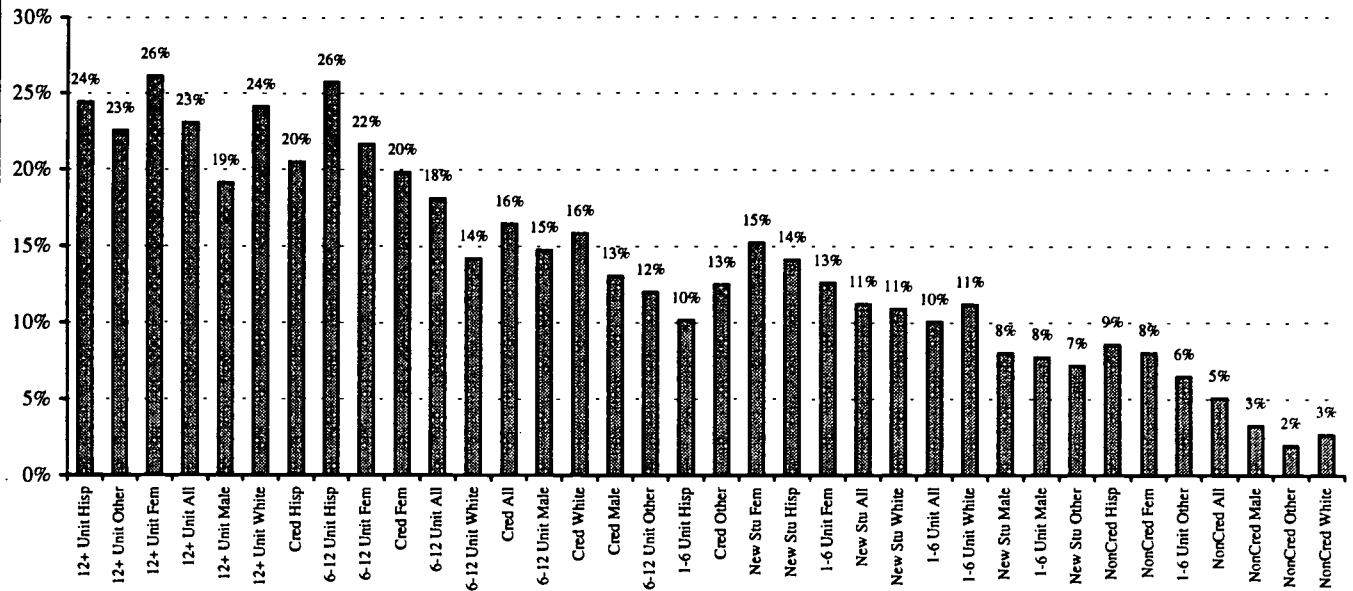
**New Students entering Fall 1992  
Persistence after One Year (Fall 1993)**



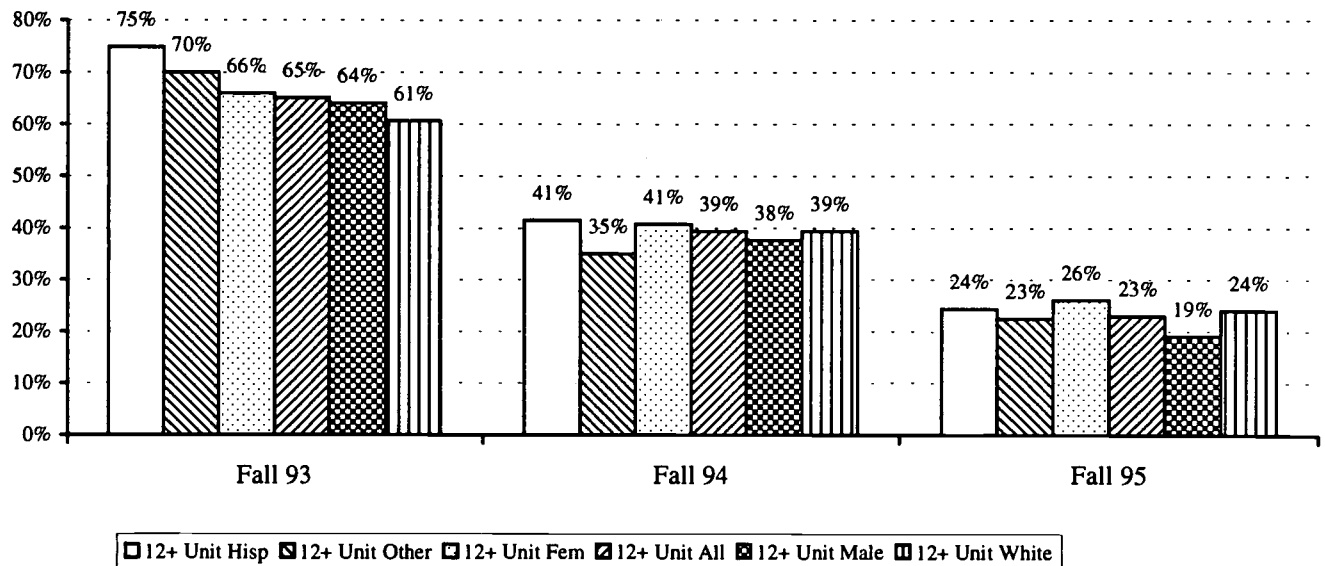
**New Students entering Fall 1992  
Persistence after Two Years (Fall 1994)**

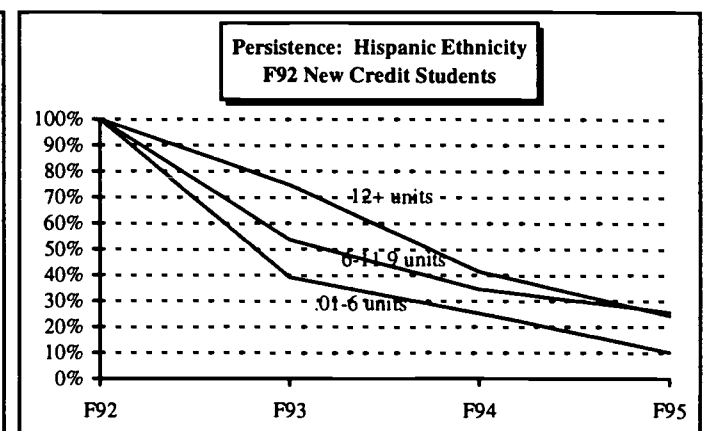
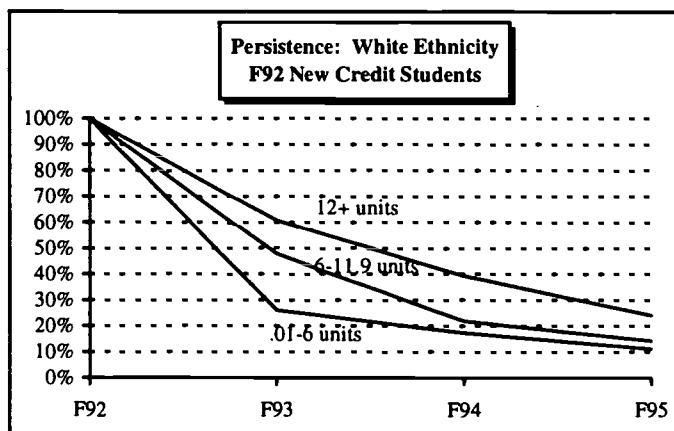
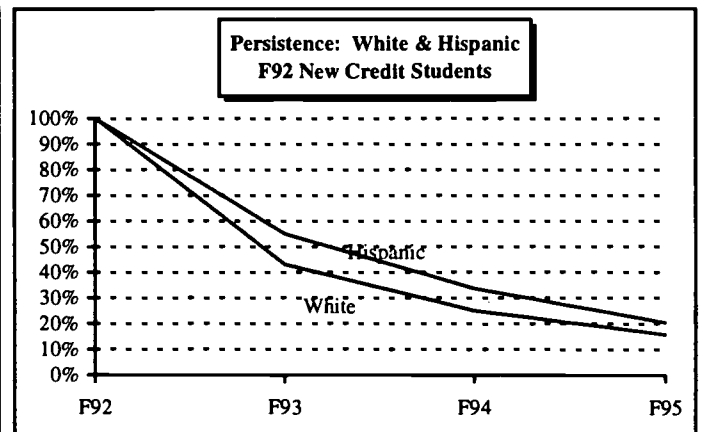
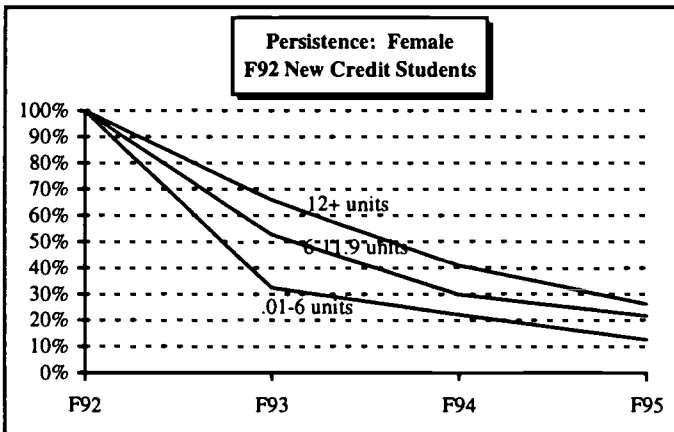
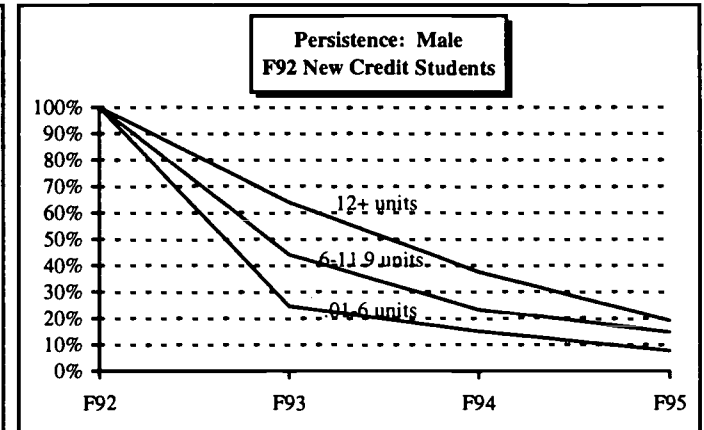
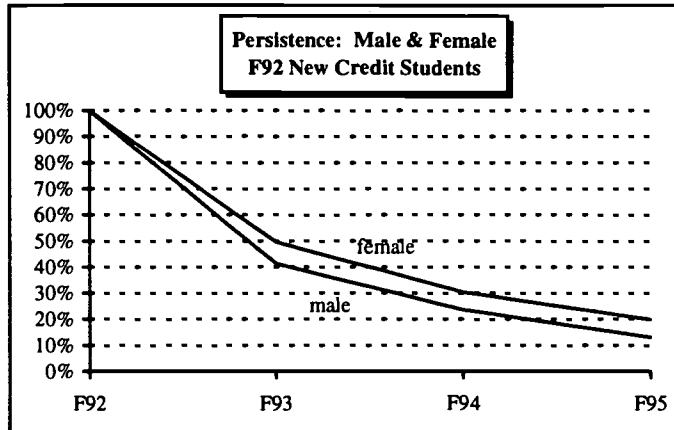
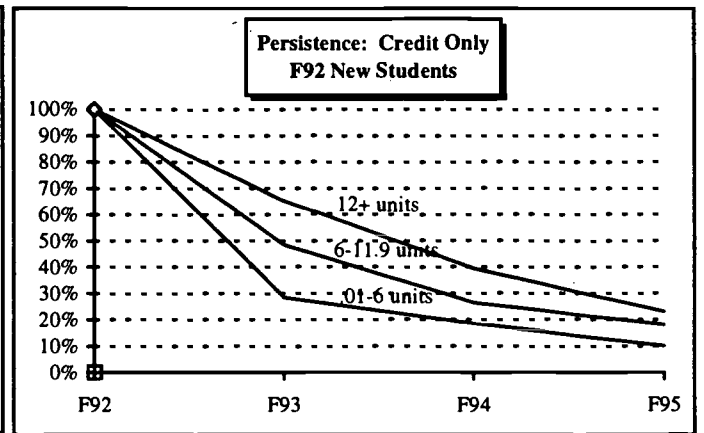
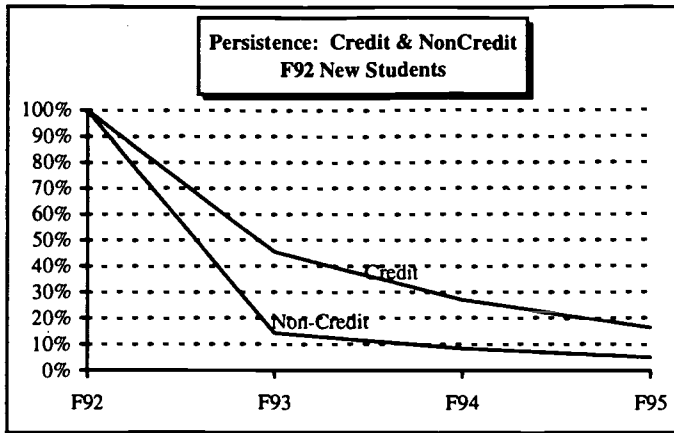


**New Students entering Fall 1992  
Persistence after Three Years (Fall 1995)**



**New Full-Load Students entering Fall 1992  
Persistence Fall 93 - Fall 94 - Fall 95**





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